

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus for viewing video, text or a combination of both in a symphonic, operatic, classroom, or other performance setting, the apparatus comprising:

a viewing device having a display, a memory, a processing unit and a control panel, the viewing device for use by an attendee; and

a control program in the memory adaptable to receive and display video images, or text data or both, the data and/or images being received from a transmission system, the transmission system operating in a performance venue to receive video and text data and retransmit the video and text data to the viewing device.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the video and text data is transmitted on different frequencies in a wireless transmission.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processing unit in the viewing device contains an operating system and code allowing the viewing device to be a JINI compatible device.

4. A system for permitting attendees at a performance to selectively view video data or text data or both by use of a viewing device, the system comprising: one or more video cameras for inputting video data images of performers, wherein the performers may be musicians, conductors, singers, actors, dancers, teachers or other speakers;

one or more input terminals for inputting text into the system;
a central control unit for receiving the video data and the text data, the central control unit having input/output units, memory, a processing unit and a short range transmission capability; and

one or more attendee viewing devices capable of receiving video and text transmissions from the central control unit.

5 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the attendee viewing devices are JINI compatible devices and the system is JINI compatible, wherein being JINI compatible means having code in the device or system conforming to the JINI protocol.

6. The system of claim 4 wherein the performance is a symphony or an opera or a ballet or a play or a classroom lecture.

10 7. A method for enhancing the enjoyment of attendees at a performance, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining an attendee viewing device;

turning the attendee viewing device on to cause it to log-on to a viewing system located in a venue of the performance; and

15 selecting on the attendee viewing device a video image from a camera in the viewing system or selecting text provided by the viewing system, or selecting a combination of video and text for display on a split screen.

20 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the attendee viewing device is a JINI compatible device.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the video and text data are transmitted from the viewing system in a wireless transmission.

25 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the viewing system is a JINI compatible system.

11 A system for permitting attendees at a performance to selectively view video or text or both, the system comprising:

30 means for viewing video or text or both for the performance in a seat location in a venue of the performance;

means for collecting video and or text relating to the performance and for retransmitting the video or text data to nearby qualified viewing devices.

- 5 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the performance is a training or classroom lecture in one of a college, a business location, and a third venue location separate from the college or business location.

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